



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7356

LCO No. 5961



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SECURITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 84 of public act 13-3, as amended by section 15 of
2 public act 13-122, section 191 of public act 13-247, section 73 of public
3 act 14-98, section 1 of public act 15-5, section 1 of public act 16-171,
4 section 1 of public act 17-68 and section 490 of public act 17-2 of the
5 June special session, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
6 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

7 (a) The Departments of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
8 Administrative Services and Education shall jointly administer a
9 school security infrastructure competitive grant program to reimburse
10 a (1) town, (2) regional educational service center, (3) the governing
11 authority for a state charter school, (4) the Department of Education on
12 behalf of the technical high school system, (5) an incorporated or
13 endowed high school or academy approved by the State Board of
14 Education pursuant to section 10-34 of the general statutes, [and] (6)
15 the supervisory agent for a nonpublic school, [including] and (7) a
16 licensed child care center or preschool that has received threats, for

17 certain expenses for schools incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for:
18 [(1)] (A) The development or improvement of the security
19 infrastructure of schools, centers or preschools based on the results of
20 school, building or child care center building security assessments
21 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, including, but not limited to,
22 the installation of surveillance cameras, penetration resistant
23 vestibules, ballistic glass, solid core doors, doors that can be locked
24 from inside the classroom, double door access, computer-controlled
25 electronic locks, entry door buzzer systems, scan card systems, panic
26 alarms, real time interoperable communications and multimedia
27 sharing infrastructure or other systems; and [(2) (A)] (B) (i) the training
28 of school personnel in the operation and maintenance of the security
29 infrastructure of school buildings, [or (B)] (ii) the purchase of portable
30 entrance security devices, including, but not limited to, metal detector
31 wands and screening machines and related training, or (iii) the
32 employment of persons to provide security services in a school
33 building pursuant to section 10-244a of the general statutes.

34 (b) (1) On and after April 4, 2013, each local and regional board of
35 education may, on behalf of its town or its member towns, apply, at
36 such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency
37 Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of
38 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain
39 expenses for schools under the jurisdiction of such board of education
40 incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in
41 subsection (a) of this section. Prior to the date that the School Safety
42 Infrastructure Council makes its initial submission of the school safety
43 infrastructure standards, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r
44 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
45 Public Protection, in consultation with the Commissioners of
46 Administrative Services and Education, shall determine which
47 expenses are eligible for reimbursement under the program. On and
48 after the date that the School Safety Infrastructure Council submits the
49 school safety infrastructure standards, the decision to approve or deny
50 an application and the determination of which expenses are eligible for

51 reimbursement under the program shall be in accordance with the
52 most recent submission of the school safety infrastructure standards,
53 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

54 (2) A regional educational service center may apply, at such time
55 and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
56 Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of Emergency Services
57 and Public Protection for a grant for certain expenses for schools under
58 the jurisdiction of such regional educational service center incurred on
59 or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in subsection (a) of
60 this section. The department shall decide whether to approve or deny
61 an application and which expenses are eligible for reimbursement
62 under the program. Such decisions shall be in accordance with the
63 school safety infrastructure standards developed pursuant to
64 subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

65 (3) The governing authority for a state charter school may apply, at
66 such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency
67 Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of
68 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain
69 expenses for schools under the jurisdiction of such governing authority
70 incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in
71 subsection (a) of this section. The department shall decide whether to
72 approve or deny an application and which expenses are eligible for
73 reimbursement under the program. Such decisions shall be in
74 accordance with the school safety infrastructure standards developed
75 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

76 (4) The superintendent of the technical high school system may
77 apply, at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of
78 Emergency Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the
79 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant
80 for certain expenses for schools in the technical high school system
81 incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in
82 subsection (a) of this section. The department shall decide whether to
83 approve or deny an application and which expenses are eligible for

84 reimbursement under the program. Such decisions shall be in
85 accordance with the school safety infrastructure standards developed
86 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

87 (5) An incorporated or endowed high school or academy may
88 apply, at such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of
89 Emergency Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the
90 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant
91 for certain expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the
92 purposes described in subsection (a) of this section. The department
93 shall decide whether to approve or deny an application and which
94 expenses are eligible for reimbursement under the program. Such
95 decisions shall be in accordance with the school safety infrastructure
96 standards developed pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of
97 the general statutes.

98 (6) (A) The supervisory agent for a nonpublic school may apply, at
99 such time and in such manner as the Commissioner of Emergency
100 Services and Public Protection prescribes, to the Department of
101 Emergency Services and Public Protection for a grant for certain
102 expenses for schools under the jurisdiction of such supervisory agent
103 incurred on or after January 1, 2013, for the purposes described in
104 subsection (a) of this section. The department shall decide whether to
105 approve or deny an application and which expenses are eligible for
106 reimbursement under the program. Such decisions shall be in
107 accordance with the school safety infrastructure standards developed
108 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-292r of the general statutes.

109 (B) Ten per cent of the funds available under the program shall be
110 awarded to the supervisory agents of nonpublic schools, in accordance
111 with the provisions of subdivision (6) of subsection (c) of this section.

112 (c) (1) A town may receive a grant equal to a percentage of its
113 eligible expenses. The percentage shall be determined as follows: (A)
114 Each town shall be ranked in descending order from one to one
115 hundred sixty-nine according to town wealth, as defined in

116 subdivision (26) of section 10-262f of the general statutes, (B) based
117 upon such ranking, a percentage of not less than twenty or more than
118 eighty shall be assigned to each town on a continuous scale, and (C)
119 the town ranked first shall be assigned a percentage of twenty and the
120 town ranked last shall be assigned a percentage of eighty.

121 (2) A regional educational service center may receive a grant equal
122 to a percentage of its eligible expenses. The percentage shall be
123 determined by its ranking. Such ranking shall be determined by (A)
124 multiplying the population of each member town in the regional
125 educational service center by such town's ranking, as determined in
126 subsection (a) of section 10-285a of the general statutes; (B) adding
127 together the figures for each town determined under subparagraph (A)
128 of this subdivision; and (C) dividing the total computed under
129 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision by the total population of all
130 member towns in the regional educational service center. The ranking
131 of each regional educational service center shall be rounded to the next
132 higher whole number and each such center shall receive the same
133 reimbursement percentage as would a town with the same rank.

134 (3) The governing authority for a state charter school may receive a
135 grant equal to a percentage of its eligible expenses that is the same as
136 the town in which such state charter school is located, as calculated
137 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

138 (4) The Department of Education, on behalf of the technical high
139 school system, may receive a grant equal to one hundred per cent of its
140 eligible expenses.

141 (5) An incorporated or endowed high school or academy may
142 receive a grant equal to a percentage of its eligible expenses. The
143 percentage shall be determined by its ranking. Such ranking shall be
144 determined by (A) multiplying the total population, as defined in
145 section 10-261 of the general statutes, of each town which at the time of
146 application for such school security infrastructure competitive grant
147 has designated such school as the high school for such town for a

148 period of not less than five years from the date of such application, by
149 such town's percentile ranking, as determined in subsection (a) of
150 section 10-285a of the general statutes, (B) adding together the figures
151 for each town determined under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision,
152 and (C) dividing the total computed under subparagraph (B) of this
153 subdivision by the total population of all towns which designate the
154 school as their high school under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.
155 The ranking determined pursuant to this subsection shall be rounded
156 to the next higher whole number. Such incorporated or endowed high
157 school or academy shall receive the reimbursement percentage of a
158 town with the same rank.

159 (6) The supervisory agent for a nonpublic school may receive a
160 grant equal to fifty per cent of its eligible expenses.

161 (d) (1) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, if there are not
162 sufficient funds to provide grants to all towns, based on the percentage
163 determined pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the
164 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
165 consultation with the Commissioners of Administrative Services and
166 Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of schools with
167 the greatest need for security infrastructure, as determined by said
168 commissioners based on school building security assessments of the
169 schools under the jurisdiction of the town's school district conducted
170 pursuant to this subdivision. Of the applicants on behalf of such
171 schools with the greatest need for security infrastructure, said
172 commissioners shall give first priority to applicants on behalf of
173 schools that have no security infrastructure at the time of such school
174 building security assessment and succeeding priority to applicants on
175 behalf of schools located in priority school districts pursuant to section
176 10-266p of the general statutes. To be eligible for reimbursement
177 pursuant to this section, an applicant board of education shall (A)
178 demonstrate that it has developed and periodically practices an
179 emergency plan at the schools under its jurisdiction and that such plan
180 has been developed in concert with applicable state or local first-
181 responders, and (B) provide for a uniform assessment of the schools

182 under its jurisdiction, including any security infrastructure, using the
183 National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities' Safe Schools
184 Facilities Checklist. The assessment shall be conducted under the
185 supervision of the local law enforcement agency.

186 (2) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, [2018] 2019,
187 inclusive, if there are not sufficient funds to provide grants to all
188 applicants that are towns, regional educational service centers,
189 governing authorities for state charter schools, the Department of
190 Education, on behalf of the technical high school system, and
191 incorporated or endowed high schools or academies based on the
192 percentage determined pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the
193 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
194 consultation with the Commissioners of Administrative Services and
195 Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of schools with
196 the greatest need for security infrastructure, as determined by said
197 commissioners based on school building security assessments of the
198 schools under the jurisdiction of the applicant conducted pursuant to
199 this subdivision. Of the applicants on behalf of such schools with the
200 greatest need for security infrastructure, said commissioners shall give
201 first priority to applicants on behalf of schools that have no security
202 infrastructure at the time of such school building security assessment
203 and succeeding priority to applicants on behalf of schools located in
204 priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p of the general
205 statutes. To be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to this section, an
206 applicant shall (A) demonstrate that it has developed and periodically
207 practices an emergency plan at the schools under its jurisdiction and
208 that such plan has been developed in concert with applicable state or
209 local first-responders, and (B) provide for a uniform assessment of the
210 schools under its jurisdiction, including any security infrastructure,
211 using the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities' Safe
212 Schools Facilities Checklist. The assessment shall be conducted under
213 the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.

214 (3) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, to June 30, [2018] 2019,
215 inclusive, if there are not sufficient funds to provide grants to all

216 applicant supervisory agents for nonpublic schools, based on the
 217 percentages described in subsection (c) of this section, the
 218 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
 219 consultation with the Commissioners of Administrative Services and
 220 Education, shall give priority to applicants on behalf of schools with
 221 the greatest need for security infrastructure, as determined by said
 222 commissioners. Of the applicants on behalf of such schools with the
 223 greatest need for security infrastructure, said commissioners shall give
 224 first priority to applicants on behalf of schools that have no security
 225 infrastructure at the time of application. To be eligible for
 226 reimbursement pursuant to this section, an applicant supervisory
 227 agent for a nonpublic school shall (A) demonstrate that it has
 228 developed and periodically practices an emergency plan at the school
 229 under its jurisdiction and that such plan has been developed in concert
 230 with applicable state or local first-responders, and (B) provide for a
 231 uniform assessment of the schools under its jurisdiction, including any
 232 security infrastructure, using the National Clearinghouse for
 233 Educational Facilities' Safe Schools Facilities Checklist. The assessment
 234 shall be conducted under the supervision of the local law enforcement
 235 agency.

236 (4) Except as provided in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this
 237 subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, if an applicant
 238 described in subdivisions (1) to (7), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this
 239 section was unable to receive a grant for an application submitted
 240 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, because of insufficient
 241 funds to provide grants to all applicants, such applicant may resubmit
 242 the same application for a grant during the fiscal year ending June 30,
 243 2019. The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
 244 shall accept and give priority to all such resubmitted applications
 245 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

246 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
 247 study issues concerning the employment of school security officers
 248 who are in possession of a firearm while on duty in public elementary,
 249 middle and high schools. Such study shall include, but not be limited

250 to, an analysis of (1) whether school security officers should be
251 authorized to carry a firearm while on duty in a public school, (2) who
252 should be responsible for conducting criminal history records checks
253 of school security officers, and (3) who should be responsible for
254 supervising school security officers. For purposes of this section,
255 "school security officer" means a person who is employed by or has
256 entered into an agreement, as described in subdivision (2) of
257 subsection (b) of section 53a-217b of the general statutes, with a local
258 or regional board of education to provide school security services, and
259 who is not a school resource officer, as defined in section 10-233m of
260 the general statutes.

261 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

262 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
263 who is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association;

264 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
265 is a representative of the American Federation of Teachers-
266 Connecticut;

267 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
268 Representatives, who is a school resource officer;

269 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a
270 representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

271 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
272 Representatives, who is the chief of police of a municipality;

273 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
274 school security officer;

275 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
276 or the commissioner's designee; and

277 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

278 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
279 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
280 filled by the appointing authority.

281 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
282 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
283 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
284 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
285 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

286 (e) Not later than January 1, 2020, the task force shall submit a
287 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
288 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
289 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
290 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
291 that it submits such report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

292 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-292r of the general statutes is
293 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
294 *1, 2019*):

295 (b) The School Safety Infrastructure Council shall develop school
296 safety infrastructure criteria for school building projects awarded
297 grants pursuant to this chapter and the school security infrastructure
298 competitive grant program, pursuant to section 84 of public act 13-3.
299 Such school safety infrastructure criteria shall conform to industry
300 standards for school building safety infrastructure and shall address
301 areas including, but not be limited to, (1) entryways to school
302 buildings and classrooms, such as, reinforcement of entryways,
303 ballistic glass, solid core doors, doors that can be locked from inside
304 the classroom, double door access, computer-controlled electronic
305 locks, remote locks on all entrance and exits and buzzer systems, (2)
306 the use of cameras throughout the school building and at all entrances
307 and exits, including the use of closed-circuit television monitoring, (3)
308 penetration resistant vestibules, and (4) other security infrastructure
309 improvements and devices as they become industry standards. The

310 council shall meet at least annually to review and update, if necessary,
311 the school safety infrastructure criteria and make such criteria
312 available to local and regional boards of education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	PA 13-3, Sec. 84
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-292r(b)

Statement of Purpose:

To allow school districts to use school security infrastructure competitive grant program funds to hire school security officers, to establish a task force to study issues concerning the authorization of school security officers to carry a firearm while on duty, and to revise the school safety infrastructure criteria for school building projects to include doors that can be locked from inside the classroom.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]